

Remarks

Claims 1 – 5, 7 – 15, and 17 – 20 are pending and rejected. Claims 6 and 16 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 7, 11, and 17 have been amended. Applicants traverse the rejections and request allowance of claims 1 – 5, 7 – 15, and 17 – 20.

Claims 7, and 17 – 18 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph with antecedent problems. Claims 7 and 17 have been amended to fix these problems.

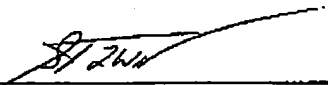
All claims in this patent were commonly owned at the time of invention.

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over US 6,373,846 to Daniel et al. in view of Chong (US 6,311,212) and in further view of Byrn et al. (EP 0 710 046). Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include a limitation that a co-processor stores context for each packet into the context buffers. Having the co-processor manage the context buffers by loading the scheduling parameters for each packet allows the core processor and the scheduler circuitry to process each packet without delay. Daniel does not store context information. Chong stores context information for some of the packets. But Chong only caches the most recently used VC's, when an old packet or a new packet needs to be processed, the core processor may have to wait as the scheduling circuitry fetches the VC from off chip memory (see column 5, lines 22 – 25). Byrn does not teach storing context for each packet into on-chip context buffers. Because Chong in combination with Daniel and Byrn do not teach having a co-processor store context information for each packet, claims 1 and 11 are allowable as amended.

Claims 2 – 5, 7 – 10 depend on allowable claim 1 and claims 12 – 15, and 17 – 20 depended on allowable claim 11 and are therefore allowable.

Claims 1 and 11 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 11 of co-pending application 09/640,231 in view of US 6,373,846 to Daniel et al. and in further view of Chong (US 6,311,212). A terminal disclaimer with respect to co-pending application 09/640,231 has been filed along with this reply.

This application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1 - 5, 7 - 15, and 17 - 20.


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